

Power Supply Bill, which asks for authority to supply electric energy over a smaller region, consisting of the districts of Hornsey, Hendon, Barnet, St. Albans, Hatfield, Hertford, Ware, &c., was, after being considered by another Committee of the House of Commons, read for a third time, and finally, on Tuesday, July 24, the Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Companies scheme already referred to in this article received the sanction of a Committee of the House of Lords.

The era of Electrical Power Distribution on a vast scale in our country has, therefore, begun.

W. E. AYRTON.

#### THE DAILY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

THE Meteorological Council has made provisional arrangements for the sale of single copies of the Daily Weather Report at a penny each from the first of August next. The copies will be on sale from about 3 o'clock of the afternoon of the day of issue at the Meteorological Office and at the railway bookstalls of the following terminal railway stations in London: Victoria (S. E. & C. and L. B. & S. C.), Charing Cross, St. Pancras, King's Cross and Euston. Hitherto the issue of the reports has been confined to certain public offices and institutions, and to annual or quarterly subscribers. The distribution has been by hand or by book-post. The area within which delivery can be effected on the day of issue is necessarily very limited, and it is hoped that the facilities afforded by the new arrangement may bring the information which the reports contain within the reach of some of those interested in the subject who live outside the present limits of delivery on the day of issue. If the provisional arrangement should make it apparent that there is any public demand for the accommodation, efforts will be made to continue and extend it.

From the same date some modifications will be introduced into the form of the Report. The morning and evening observations of the telegraphic reporting stations will appear on the first page as usual, but the two charts on the second page, representing the morning distribution of pressure, wind and sea, and of temperature and weather respectively, will be supplemented by three smaller charts. One will represent the barometric distribution over the whole of Europe at 8 a.m. of the preceding day in order that the general atmospheric changes may be more readily traced. Another will represent mean monthly or bi-monthly morning isotherms for the British Isles, so that the distribution of temperature for the day may be easily compared with the normal distribution for the season as estimated for a period of twenty-five years. The third will represent the distribution of mean maximum temperature estimated in a similar manner.

There will also be several changes on the fourth page of the Report. Instead of "General Remarks on the Weather over Europe" there will be a table giving the latest information in the possession of the Office as to maximum and minimum temperature, rainfall, and weather at selected stations on the Continent and elsewhere which are beyond the area represented by the telegraphic reports. The selection of the stations will be mainly determined by the current interests of travellers, and will be varied from time to time according to the information available.

The information as to the weather in the British Islands will also be supplemented by data as to sunshine for the preceding day from a number of stations which will report by post, and it is intended, in course of time, to replace "yesterday's 2 p.m. reports" by postal reports of maximum and minimum temperature and rainfall for a number of inland stations which are expected to prove

a useful addition to the telegraphic reports of the first page.

For convenience of reference a small supplemental table will give the Greenwich time of sunrise, noon, and sunset for four selected stations in the British Isles, so that the variation in the duration of daylight and the standard times of local noon for any locality may be ascertained.

W. N. SHAW.

#### THE BRADFORD MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

THE local arrangements for the Bradford meeting of the British Association in September next are now rapidly approaching completion. The railway companies have agreed to give the usual special facilities, both to visitors who come to Bradford from long distances, and to members resident in Yorkshire who travel to and fro every day. Those persons who attend the meeting can obtain a return ticket from nearly all the railway companies at a fare and a quarter, provided they present to the booking-clerk a certificate, which can be obtained on application to the local office at 5, Forster Square. Any Members or Associates visiting Bradford day by day, and staying in places within fifty miles of the city, can obtain return tickets at the single fare on presenting their card of membership to the booking-clerk in Bradford. The following railway companies have entered into this arrangement:—the Caledonian, the Great Eastern, the Great Central, the Great Northern, the Great Western, Lancs. and Yorks, London, Brighton and South Coast, London and North Western, London and South Western, Midland, North British, North Eastern, South Eastern, Chatham and Dover, and the other companies belonging to the Associated Railways.

The local programme is now in the press, and will be issued within the next fortnight to the Members and Associates who have notified their intention of being present. The following items, however, will give a brief summary of the information contained in it:—

#### GENERAL PROGRAMME.

*Wednesday, September 5.*—4 p.m.: Meeting of General Committee at the Town Hall; 8.30 p.m.: the President's Address in St. George's Hall.

*Thursday, September 6.*—3.30 p.m.: Reception at the Technical College (Textile Exhibition); 8.30 p.m.: the Mayor's Conversazione in St. George's Hall.

*Friday, September 7.*—8.30 p.m.: Lecture in St. George's Hall by Prof. Gotch, F.R.S., on "Animal Electricity"; 9.30 p.m.: Smoking Concert in the Technical College in honour of the President.

*Saturday, September 8.*—Excursions (half-day); 8 p.m.: Artisans' Lecture in St. George's Hall, by Prof. Silvanus Thompson, F.R.S.

*Sunday, September 9.*—10.30 a.m.: Sermon by the Bishop of Ripon in the Parish Church.

*Monday, September 10.*—3.30 p.m.: Corporation Garden Party in Lister Park; 8.30 p.m.: Lecture in St. George's Hall by Prof. W. Stroud, D.Sc., on "Range Finders."

*Tuesday, September 11.*—8.30 p.m.: Corporation Soirée in St. George's Hall.

*Wednesday, September 12.*—3.30 p.m.: Private Garden Parties; 8 p.m.: Full-Dress Concert in St. George's Hall (Festival Choral Society; Permanent Orchestra; conductor, Mr. F. H. Cowen; Miss Ella Russell).

*Thursday, September 13.*—Excursions (whole day).

The conferences of delegates of corresponding societies will be held on Thursday, September 6, and Tuesday, September 11, at 3 p.m., at the Reception Rooms.

The Reception Room at the Grammar School will be opened on Monday, September 3, at 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.,

and on the following week-days at 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Sunday, September 9, the Reception Rooms will be open from 9 to 10.30 a.m., and from 3 to 5 p.m.

The temporary Museum in connection with the Sections is this year being made a special feature, more particularly in regard to Geology, Botany and Zoology. Joint meetings are being held, on certain days, of the Geological and Botanical Sections, to take up the subject of Carboniferous fossils, and it is proposed to form a collection of fossils found in the neighbourhood to illustrate the papers as much as possible; and also to display photographs bearing on the subject, taken from the Geological Society's collection in London. These exhibits will form the nucleus of the Museum, but there will also be other collections bearing on the main subjects dealt with by some of the other Sections. At the Municipal Technical College there will be an Exhibition during the week illustrative of the staple trades of the district; visitors will pass from room to room, and will see the gradual development, through innumerable processes, of the most elaborate fabrics from the unwashed fleeces. On Thursday afternoon, September 6, the Exhibition will be opened by Mr. W. E. B. Priestley, the chairman of the College, and a Reception held, to which all visitors to the meeting will be invited.

The preparations for the Excursions and Garden-parties are nearly complete, and full details will be given in the next article.

RAMSDEN BACCHUS.

#### NOTES.

PROF. R. LIPSCHITZ, professor of mathematics in the University of Bonn, has been elected a correspondant in the section of geometry of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

LORD KELVIN has been elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers for the year 1900-1901.

SIR JOHN EVANS, K.C.B., F.R.S., has been elected chairman of the Society of Arts for the ensuing year.

MR. GRANT-OGILVIE, principal of the Heriot-Watt College, has been appointed director of the Museum of Science and Art, Edinburgh.

THE sixty-eighth annual meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Ipswich during next week, commencing on Tuesday.

DR. M. ARMAND RUFFER, president of the sanitary, maritime, and quarantine board of Egypt, has received from His Majesty the Sultan of Turkey the Order and Insignia of the Medjidjieh of the Second Class.

A CONFERENCE on the housing of the working classes, under the auspices of the Sanitary Institute, will be held on July 30 and 31, in the lecture-room of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. In connection with the conference an exhibition of models and plans will be held in the Parkes Museum.

IT is stated in the *Engineer* that of the fifty-five ships taking part in the naval manœuvres this year, the *Adrienne*, *Camperdown*, *Jaseur*, besides some others, are specially fitted for wireless telegraphy. The *Majestic* and the *Diadem* have also been fitted. Torpedo officers have charge of the installation in each case.

THE thirty-seventh annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference was opened in London on Monday, under the presidency of Mr. E. M. Holmes. An attractive programme containing illustrations of the house of the Pharmaceutical Society where the meetings will be held, the president, and places to be visited, appears as a supplement to the current number of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

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WE learn from the *British Medical Journal* that the Madras Government has passed an order sanctioning the excess expenditure over the original grant of 600 rupees incurred by Capt. R. H. Elliott in connection with the prosecution of his researches into the properties of snake venom, and has made him an additional grant of 200 rupees to cover the cost of further experiments. The Surgeon-General has been requested to report if Capt. Elliott's services will be available for special duty at the end of September when his tour of service terminates.

PROF. HENRY F. OSBORN has been appointed to succeed the late Prof. O. C. Marsh as palæontologist in the United States Geological Survey. Prof. Osborn's special field of work will be to take charge of the vertebrate palæontology of the survey, especially with reference to the completion of the monographs for which the illustrations were prepared under the direction of Prof. Marsh. Prof. Osborn graduated from Princeton in 1877, and was professor of comparative anatomy there until 1890. He was appointed Da Costa Professor of Zoology at Columbia University in 1891, and curator of vertebrate palæontology at the American Museum of Natural History, New York. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and other scientific bodies, and is the author of numerous papers and memoirs on fossil mammals and reptiles.

THE seventy-second annual meeting of the German Association of Naturalists and Physicians will be opened at Aachen on Monday, September 17. At the first general meeting, the advances of natural knowledge and medicine during the present century will be surveyed. Prof. van 't Hoff will review the progress of inorganic science; Prof. O. Hertwig will discourse on the development of biology; Prof. B. Naunyn will deal with internal medicine, including bacteriology of hygiene; and Prof. H. Chiari will speak on pathological anatomy in relation to external medicines. At the second general meeting, to be held on September 31, several scientific subjects of current interest will be dealt with. Prof. J. Wolff will speak on the correlation between form and function of individual structures of organisms; Prof. E. v. Drygalski will describe the plan and purpose of the German Antarctic expedition; Prof. D. Hansemann will discourse upon cell-problems and their significance in the scientific foundation of the treatment of disease; and Prof. Holzaphel will take as his subject the development of German coal-measures. On September 19, the naturalists and physicians will meet in separate groups. The questions to be brought before the former group include the circulation of nitrogen in the organic world, by Prof. M. W. Beyerink; the latest investigations upon steel, by Prof. E. F. Dürre; and language and technical teaching from a scientific standpoint, by Prof. Pietzker. The chief subject to be discussed in the medical section is the neuron theory in its anatomical, physiological and pathological aspects, by Profs. Verworn and Nissl. The remainder of the meetings will be held in the various sections of the Association, and as more than three hundred communications will be made, there will be no lack of subjects for discussion. In connection with the meeting, an exhibition of physical, chemical, and medical preparations and apparatus will be held.

IN the course of his presidential address, delivered to the Society of Chemical Industry on July 18, Prof. Chandler referred to some of the work of American chemists, and the development of chemical processes of manufacture. Many important investigations in agricultural chemistry have been conducted by the chemical division of the United States Department of Agriculture, among them being the practical determination of the number and activity of the nitrifying organisms in soil, the influence of a soil rich in nitrogen on the nitrogen content of a crop, the manufacture of sugar from the sorghum plant, and the comparative study of typical soils of the United